

THE Gun Owners

45 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1976-2021

Eighteen State Attorneys General Back GOA's Legal Case — Plus, GOA credited as being the most effective 2A legal organization!

by Erich Pratt

Gun Owners of America is helping build momentum for protecting gun rights in the courts.

This fall, the U.S. Supreme Court will be hearing a New York City case involving concealed carry. This is a case where both Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation have filed an *amicus* brief.

Then there is our bump stock challenge before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case is *GOA v. Garland*.

In March, a three-judge panel sided with GOA in this case. And this prompted the famed Dick Heller, who was the chief plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that bears his name, to say:

Lots of pro-gun groups sued — but only GOA won! GOA fights for gun owners, and wins, when no one else can or will. They're the nation's most effective pro-gun advocate.

Of course, our victory in *GOA v. Garland* must have infuriated the petty tyrants in the Biden Administration. So they are now appealing that decision before the full court of appeals.

Since then, the GOA/GOF brief has received quite a bit of notoriety. In August, Attorneys General from eighteen states filed an *amicus* brief in support of *GOA v. Garland*.

The list of Attorneys General includes those from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

These Attorneys General know that this case goes well beyond bump stocks. At its core, *GOA v. Garland* is about whether the ATF has the authority to bypass Congress and establish its own arbitrary rules concerning the Second Amendment.

If the ATF's ban on bump stocks is upheld, the road will be paved for a ban on AR-15s, restrictions on parts used to repair or build firearms, and just about any other restriction the unelected ATF bureaucrats decide to implement against our rights.

And it won't stop with bump stocks. The ATF will essentially be granted the authority to *continue* bypassing Congress on any matter it pleases under the guidance of the most rabidly anti-gun executive branch in history.

In fact, we've already seen the ATF's proposed rules on homemade firearms, or what they pejoratively call "ghost guns."



Many outside of the nation's capital know Dick Heller (center) for the landmark Supreme Court case that bears his name. But in and around the nation's capital, Heller is known for flashing his "2A sign." Pictured here with Heller is GOA's Aidan Johnston (left), along with pro-gun Reps. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) and Thomas Massie (KY).

On top of that, the ATF is seeking to ban as many as 40,000,000 braced-firearms.

The anti-gun lobby's appetite to infringe on people's God-given rights is limitless, and unless we stop them in court, they will feel empowered to deal a death blow to the Second Amendment.

GOA beats Bloomberg in court over 2A sanctuaries

In July, GOA and GOF defeated Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety in court.

The issue involved a Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance (SASO) passed by the citizens of Columbia County, Oregon.

Bloomberg's group tried to torpedo the 2A sanctuary movement by challenging a local 2A sanctuary ordinance.

But GOA, who was joined by the Oregon Firearms Federation (OFF), came to the defense of the ordinance. And we are very thankful that the court sided against Everytown and the anti-gun County Board, which decided to appeal the case in August.

Over 60 percent of municipalities in the United States have passed 2A sanctuaries. So this case marks a huge victory for not

Continued on page 2



Gun Owners of America



▲ GOA Rallies Activists for 2A Rights in the Sunshine State

Florida state Representative Anthony Sabatini (center) is joined by GOA's Erich Pratt (left) and Luis Valdes (right) at the state capitol in Tallahassee. Politicians had indicated that Constitutional Carry was not a "priority," so GOA rallied gun owners in August to show that the right to keep and bear arms is always a top priority.



Freedom to Carry However You Choose ▶

In Florida, the open carry of firearms is largely prohibited. But Gun Owners of America believes Americans should have the freedom to carry firearms in a manner that they choose — openly or concealed — without jumping through government hoops. At a 2A rally in August, GOA's Florida Director Luis Valdes points to an empty holster to demonstrate the perplexing Florida law which allows one to carry a firearm concealed, but not openly — except in a limited set of circumstances.



GOA Fighting a Multi-Front Battle in the Tar Heel State ▶

GOA has been busy in North Carolina, rallying gun owners in several counties to turn out en masse to oppose private property shooting bans. In each case, the proposals were delayed or rejected entirely. Additionally, GOA and Grass Roots North Carolina are suing a sheriff who refuses to issue gun permits in accordance with the law. And in response to gun owners' pressure, state representatives in Raleigh passed pro-gun bills like Church Carry and Pistol Purchase Permit repeal, sending them to the Governor's desk. Pictured here is GOA's Jordan Stein and Andy Stevens, who have been speaking out against the private property shooting bans.



◀ Celebrating Freedom in the Lion's Den

Two from GOA's team were speakers at the 8th annual Massachusetts Flag Day 2A Rally in June. Pictured here is GOA Senior Vice President Erich Pratt, who is next to his son (on left); GOA New Hampshire State Director Alan Rice; and Jared, who is the YouTube personality from Guns 'n Gadgets (right).

Eighteen State Attorneys General Back GOA's Legal Case!

Continued from page 1

only gun owners in Columbia County, Oregon, but Second Amendment supporters nationwide.

GOA deemed THE MOST effective 2A legal organization!

According to the Empirical SCOTUS, GOA is tied for 13th on the list of most effective legal organizations. And GOA was the only firearms organization on this list — outperforming both the AFL-CIO and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Much of our legal effectiveness comes through the almost 150 *amicus* briefs that both GOA and GOF have filed over the years.

For example, in the landmark *Heller* case, GOA's *amicus* brief is recognized as contributing to the "text and history" standard that was articulated by Justice Antonin Scalia. GOA's brief challenged judicial balancing tests in favor of an originalist approach that examined, as our brief espoused, the "text, context, and history" of the Second Amendment.

Currently, GOA and GOF have filed an *amicus* brief in a concealed carry case that will soon be before the U.S. Supreme Court.

A victory in *NYSRPA v. Bruen* would be a game changer. Similar to New York, there are seven other states that frequently refuse to allow law-abiding citizens the right to carry guns.

This case can put an end to the arbitrary denials of concealed carry permits to law-abiding citizens — and signal to the lower courts that SCOTUS Justices are now watching them closely. ■

America on the Frontlines



▲ Resisting the Anti-Gun Left's Revisionist 2A History

The American Civil Liberties Union recently claimed that the Second Amendment was rooted in racism and attempted to rewrite its history. To push back, GOA's Antonia Okafor Cover joined Fox News to explain how gun control is actually used to keep minorities oppressed, and how bearing arms ensures freedom. The interview can be viewed here: gunowners.me/alcu

GOA Beats Everytown for Gun Safety in Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance Battle in Oregon ▼

GOA, along with its Foundation and the Oregon Firearms Federation, beat Everytown for Gun Safety and successfully defended a Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance (SASO) in an Oregon court. In an effort to undo the will of their constituents and attack the right to keep and bear arms, the Columbia Board of County Commissioners — with support from Everytown for Gun Safety — sought a court review of the SASO. However, the court ruled that the Columbia Board lacked "a justiciable controversy" and sided with GOA and GOF.



Gun Owners Are the Key to Flipping Congress in 2022

Continued from page 4

Among those Senate races where your support could make a difference are:

- Arizona, with anti-gun incumbent Mark Kelly;
- Georgia, with anti-gun incumbent Rafael Warnock;
- Nevada, with anti-gun incumbent Catherine Cortez-Masto;
- New Hampshire, with anti-gun incumbent Maggie Hassan;
- North Carolina, where incumbent Richard Burr is retiring and anti-gun candidates are hiding their position, including a radical anti-gun liberal judge;
- And Pennsylvania, where turncoat incumbent Pat Toomey is retiring and anti-gun candidates are lining up to replace



▲ Six-Shooting in the Cowboy State and Beyond

GOA's new Regional Director for the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains, Mark Jones (left), is working to establish 2A sanctuaries in several states. A lifelong gun owner and hunter, Jones was very involved with local, Constitutionally-minded activism before joining GOA. He will be representing GOA members in Idaho, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Pictured with Jones is GOA Executive Vice President John Velleco and Director of Development Kailey Nieman.

Tens of Thousands of GOA Activists Tell the ATF to Reject Gun Control ▶

President Biden's ATF announced in May that it will seek to regulate so-called "ghost guns" — in other words, the ATF is effectively banning homemade guns. The regulation would also implement gun owner registration and require a background check (and associated fees) for many common gun parts. GOA rallied its members and generated over 60,000 comments opposing this regulation.



him — including a card-carrying Socialist.

GOA's candidate survey program, with its strong record of success, is key to ensuring that whoever represents those seats in January votes 100% pro-gun.

Strong voter turnout by gun owners, and strong support for GOA's candidate survey programs, could turn back the anti-gun hordes now controlling Washington.

GOA encourages members to make an additional gift to support the candidate survey program, which lets voters know which candidates have pledged in writing to vote 100% pro-gun, which ones hold anti-gun views, and which are attempting to hide their views from you.

With anti-gun majorities in Congress that are loud and aggressive, but narrow, your 2022 vote and support could move mountains. ■



Gun Owners Are the Key to Flipping Congress in 2022

By John Velleco

No, it is not too early to be thinking about the 2022 elections.

In fact, GOA is already surveying and interviewing candidates, and making key endorsements in electoral races that could shape the next Congress.

For example, GOA has recently announced the endorsement of Adam Laxalt for U.S. Senate in Nevada. Laxalt is running against anti-gun Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto (D) in one of the KEY races that could determine the fate Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

With anti-gun majorities controlling both the U.S. House and Senate, and anti-gun radicals in command of the White House, the 2022 mid-term elections may determine whether the Biden administration begins implementing new gun bans and carrying out gun confiscation.

While anti-gun forces claim a majority in both chambers, that majority is narrow.

Early voting in many states for the Nov. 8, 2022, election begins in early October of that year, and if gun owners come out in force, they could flip control of one or both chambers, thwarting many gun grabs.

But a failure by gun owners to come out and vote, and a failure to support efforts to press lawmakers by groups like Gun Owners of America, could result in anti-gun extremists expanding their majorities.

GOA is conducting large-scale candidate survey programs that have proven effective in stopping anti-gun legislation and building pro-gun majorities in Congress and state legislatures.

Right now, gun grabbers in Congress are attempting to sneak anti-gun schemes like “red flag” confiscation raids, mandatory gun licensing, so-called “gun buybacks” and gun confiscation from veterans into “must pass” spending bills.

They are also proceeding with their agenda to mandate national background checks and build a national database of gun owners.

Unless a pro-gun majority takes control in the next elec-

Gun Owners’ Pick for the U.S. Senate



Adam Laxalt is challenging the anti-gun Catherine Cortez Masto in Nevada’s Senate race. During Laxalt’s tenure as Attorney General, he developed a strong record of defending the Second Amendment, standing out for resisting Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders and Universal Background Checks. Laxalt would be a champion for gun owners in the U.S. Senate, and that’s why he earned GOA’s endorsement.

tion, those efforts will be signed into law by Joe Biden.

Right now, anti-gun lobbyists — funded by billionaires like Michael Bloomberg and George Soros — have a majority of the votes in the House, but only by a narrow margin.

A strong voter turnout, and pressure from GOA’s candidate survey, could lead to a pro-gun majority returning to the chamber.

In addition to a little over a dozen U.S. House races where a change in lawmaker’s position could stop the anti-gun agenda, GOA is targeting key races in the Senate, where Vice President Kamala Harris’ tie-breaking vote gives anti-gun Sen. Chuck Schumer control of the chamber.

With enough anti-gun senators to give Harris the rubber stamp, gun grabbers are ramming through the chamber radical judges who flat-out state that the Constitution does not protect your right to own a gun, that private guns can be confiscated, and that only authorized government agents should be allowed to bear arms.

Continued on page 3

THE Gun Owners

Tim Macy
President

John Velleco
Executive Vice President

Erich Pratt
Senior Vice President

Michael Hammond
Legislative Counsel

Jordan Stein
Director of Communications

Aidan Johnston
Director of Federal Affairs

Matthew Patterson
Director of State and Local Affairs

Antonia Okafor Cover
Director of Outreach

Kailey Nieman
Director of Development

FOLLOW US:



The Gun Owners publication is copyrighted. But copies may be made freely with attribution, giving GOA’s address, phone number and web site location.